

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4811

### 1. Name

Historic 503 – 525 North Madeira Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 503 – 525 North Madeira Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of twelve two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices was built in the late 1880s. Only one of the houses retains its original brick facade, which would have been painted; the remainder are covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height. 503 – 515 are 13' and 12'6" wide and occupy lots 58'6" deep; 517 – 525 are 13', 14', 11'11" (two), and 12'4" wide, respectively, and occupy lots 46'7" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by four small scroll-sawn brackets set against a deep frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, decorated with a row of butterfly-like shapes, created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and plain tympanums. None of the original 2/2 sash survive and all windows have modern 1/1 replacement sash or are boarded over. The sills are brick. Doorways have single-light transoms, but no original doors remain. The houses sit on medium height basements, lit by a single-light sash, the entrances being reached by three brick or concrete steps.

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitar	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportati	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: speci	

Specific dates c. 1888

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of late-Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties, or sold them to other investors. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The land originally belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18<sup>th</sup> century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the late 1860s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to various builders who constructed modestly scaled and priced housing for the mainly German immigrant families who were settling near the port-related fledgling industries of Canton. Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

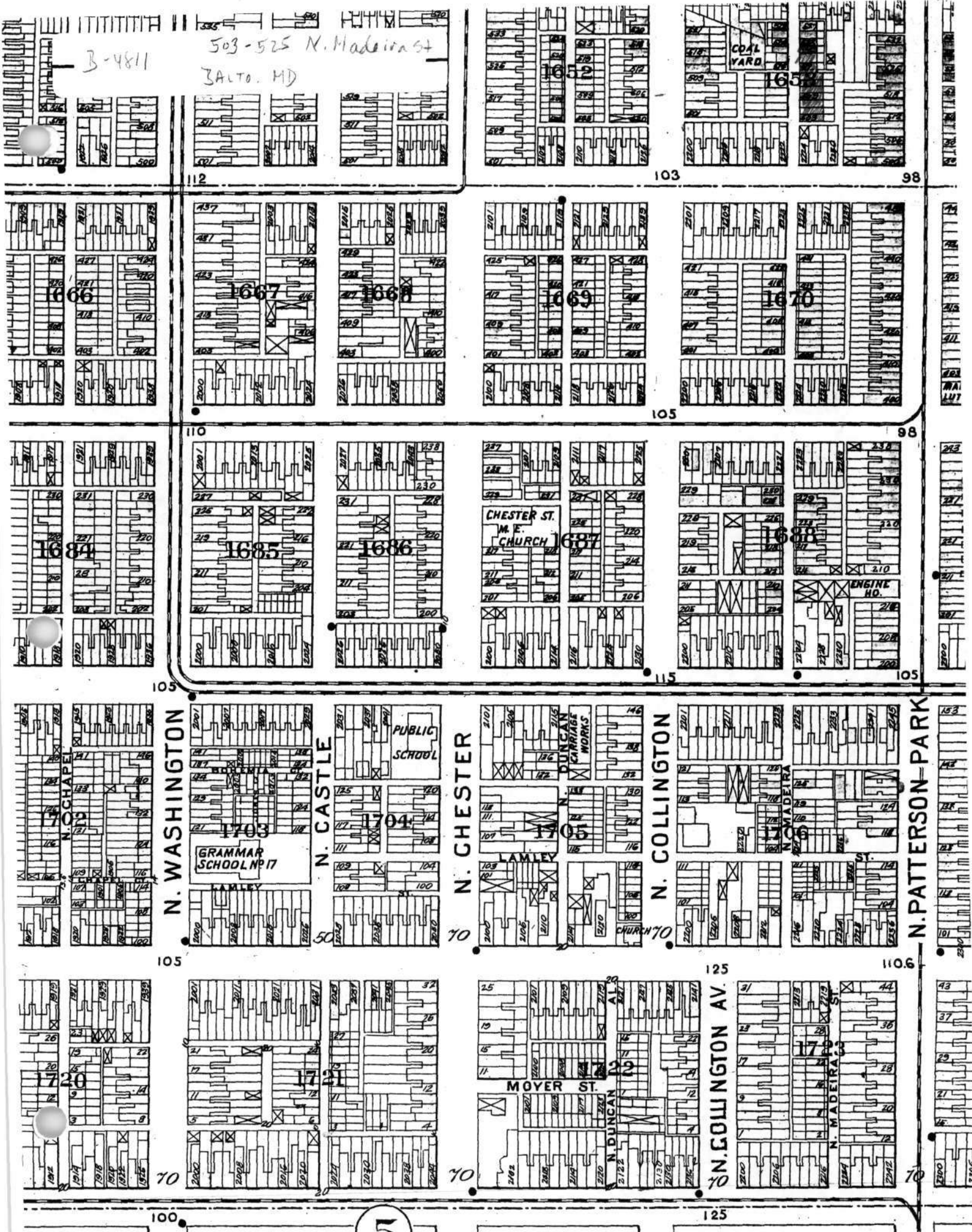
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023





B-4811

503-525 N. Madeira St  
BALTO. MD

COAL YARD

CHESTER ST.  
M. E.  
CHURCH

687

ENGINE HO.

GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL NO 17

PUBLIC  
SCHOOL

LAWLEY

CHURCH

MOYER ST.

5

B-4811  
503-525 N. Madera Street  
Block 1653, Lots 085-096  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.

